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THE COMMUNICATOR SPRINGHILL PENITENTIARY



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Editorial

by GREG SCOTT

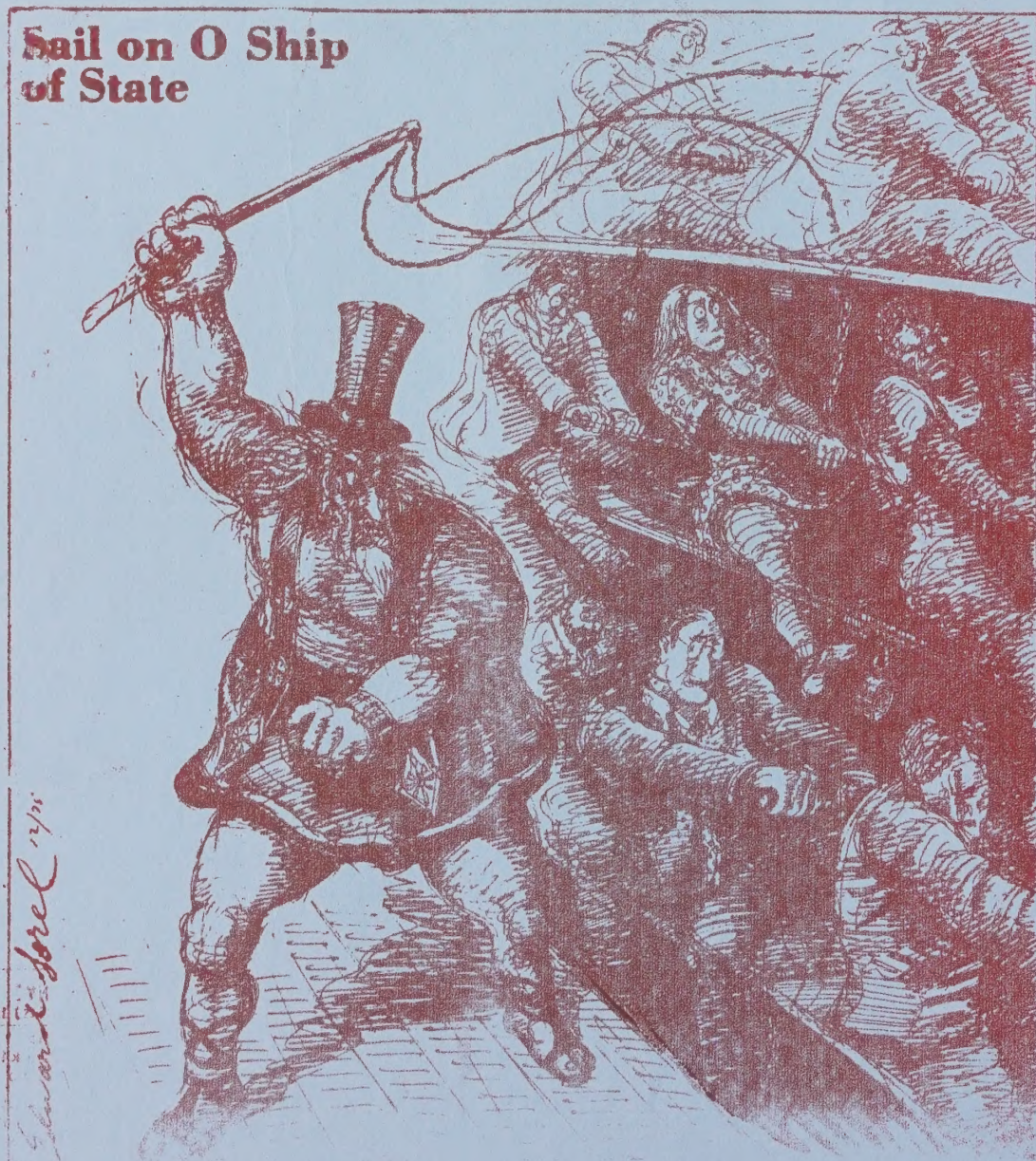
AS THIS ISSUE GOES TO PRINT (the last for this crew) THE COMMISSIONER OF PENITENTIARIES, MR. YEOMANS IS MAKING HIS FIRST TOUR OF THE SPARKLING HALLS OF SPRINGHILL. THE CLEANING ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAS BEEN WONDERFUL TO BEHOLD. MR. YEOMANS INDEED SAID THAT HIS TWO MAJOR GOALS WERE(ARE)TO IMPLEMENT PROGRESSIVE TYPES OF PROGRAMS WHEREBY INMATES WILL HAVE SOME MONEY UPON THEIR RELEASE, AND GENERALLY MAKING THINGS SHIPSHAPE IN HIS INSTITUTIONS. CLEANLINESS MAY BE NEXT TO GODLINESS, BUT IF WE ARE TO LOOK REALISTICALLY AT THE CANADIAN PENAL SYSTEM, SOME OTHER TYPES OF CLEANUP ARE IN ORDER.

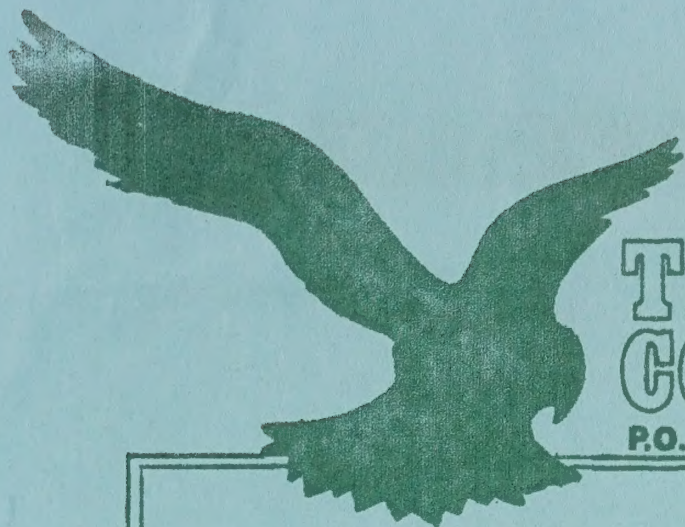
THE OVO PHOTO/CENSORSHIP ISSUE HAS NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. OUR CORRESPONDANCE PAGE REFLECTS THE SITUATION TO DATE.

WE HAVEN'T YET HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THE "CRUEL AND UNUSUAL", BUT THE LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN A REVIEW TO COMMENT ON. UNFORTUNATELY, MR. DOUG HARKNESS, MANAGING EDITOR AND AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE AMHERST DAILY NEWS HAS FOUND A WAY OF PUTTING OFF THOSE INVOLVED IN AND AROUND SPRINGHILL, SAYING IN HIS FIRST SENTENCE THE MINIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN SPRINGHILL(CLOSED FOR MANY YEARS) REFERRING TO THE MEDIUM SECURITY. MAYBE THE AUTHORS OF THE BOOK ARE AT FAULT, AND NOT HARKNESS, BUT TO PUT A MENTION OF OVERTIME RACKETS AND CADILLACS IN BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS ON THIS PRISON HAS DONE NOTHING TO MAKE STAFF AT SPRINGHILL RECEPTIVE TO ENLIGHTENMENT. IF PEOPLE ARE TO ATTEMPT TO MOTIVATE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT IT'S BETTER NOT TO PLACE THE TARGET ON THE DEFENSIVE.

OUR COVER THIS ISSUE SHOWS THE NEW CPS ISSUE OF AR-15'S WHICH ARE FOUND IN TOWERS & GUNCAGES IN CANADA'S FINEST. THE FITTING PICTURE WAS TAKEN FROM LIASON, THE PUBLIC ORGAN OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL'S MINISTRY. I WONDER IF SOME LAYOUT ARTIST IN OTTAWA REALIZES THE SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE CONTAINED IN HIS WORK. SHOWING AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF A PERSON WHO IS MISSING THE UPPER PORTION OF HIS HEAD AS WELL AS HIS ORGANS BELOW THE BELT DOES CONVEY A POETIC MEANING, INDEED.

Sail on O Ship of State





THE COMMUNICATOR

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THE CONTENTS HEREIN, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ARE FREE FOR REPRINTING, PROVIDING THAT THE AUTHOR'S NAME, AND THE PUBLICATION "COMMUNICATOR" IS ALSO RECOGNIZED.

CORRESPONDENCE

Following is a letter sent by us to Mr. D.H. Yeomans, Commissioner of Corrections on the topic of OVO PHOTO magazine and Mr. Yeomans' reply. Till date we have yet to receive a reply from OVO.

Mr. D.H. Yeomans,
Commissioner of Corrections,
340 Laurier Ave. West,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Sir;

We have recently been informed of the regulation against the magazine OVO PHOTO. We subscribed to this magazine over a year ago when we saw their Prison Issue, but have not managed to receive a copy since that time.

I was lead to believe that OVO was (is) considered to contain inflammatory material. Judging from the issue we did see, I am of the opinion that the situations pictured are in themselves inflammatory, much more so than any pictures or commentary. In fact, the introduction was written by Wm. MacAllister who did more to keep the inmates of Archambault Prison from rioting than all the regulations and inflammatory materials did to create one.

If National Policy is the suppression of inflammation, why have they permitted the situations pictured in OVO to continue to exist? If the Penitentiary Service is at all interested in avoiding riots and strikes, they would be better served to clean up the Canadian prisons and develop a community interest and knowledge of prisons than by suppressing information and playing games with the freedom of information.

Greg Scott,
Editor

Copies:

Mr. Jorge Guerra, Editor OVO PHOTO
Head Social Development, C.P.S. Ottawa

Mr. Greg Scott,
Editor The Communicator,
P.O. Box 2140,
Springhill, Nova Scotia

April 20, 1978

READING MATERIALS:

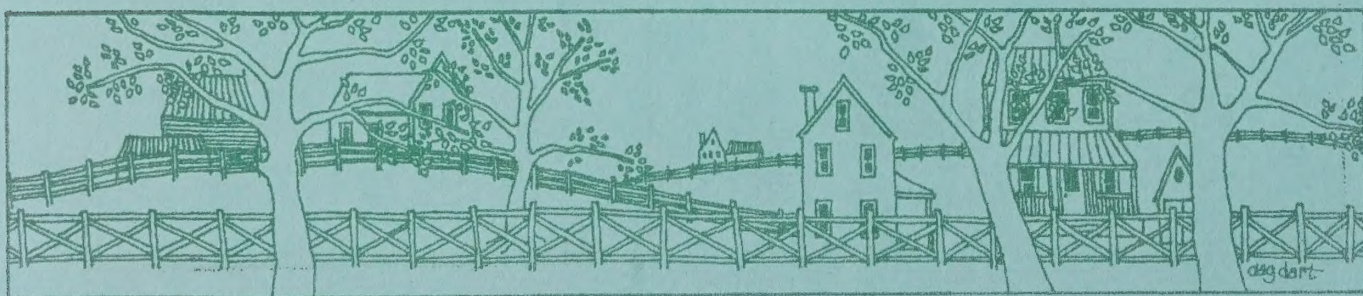
- 1) Further to your letter received late March 1978, we contacted institutional authorities of Springhill and consulted Security Branch at National Headquarters. We fully support the action taken a year ago by Springhill authorities with regard to OVO Magazine. We are told that these magazines have not been published since at least 10 to 12 months.
- 2) In terms of regulations, we would say that Penitentiary Service Regulations (PSR) are very explicit in that regard. Part 2, Section 2, 21 (reading material Article C says that "No reading materials, of any description shall be permitted in an institution if it is calculated to affect adversely the good order or administration of the institution."
- 3) We hope this information would be of some help to you.

Edgar Bernard

c.c.: DCOP
A/DSD

In conversation with Jorge Guerra, editor of the OVO Photo Magazine, We are surprised to learn that OVO is still in business, and Edgar Bernard is mistaken, or misinformed, or is trying to mislead a legitimate complaint, in his letter.

If the CPS is not willing to repeal its judgement of the OVO as inflammatory then I guess they are not interested in stimulating public awareness of our institutions, generating disgust with the medieval prisons in the hope of doing something about it, or anything else but using the old mentality which dictates "If you don't know what to do, Lock 'em up".



The 'Blues' have finally arrived in the institution. Inmates are now permitted to wear their blue-jeans during leisure hours and weekends. Under no circumstances are they permitted during working hours, except if you have a visit.

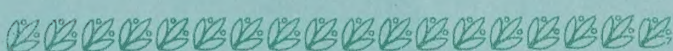
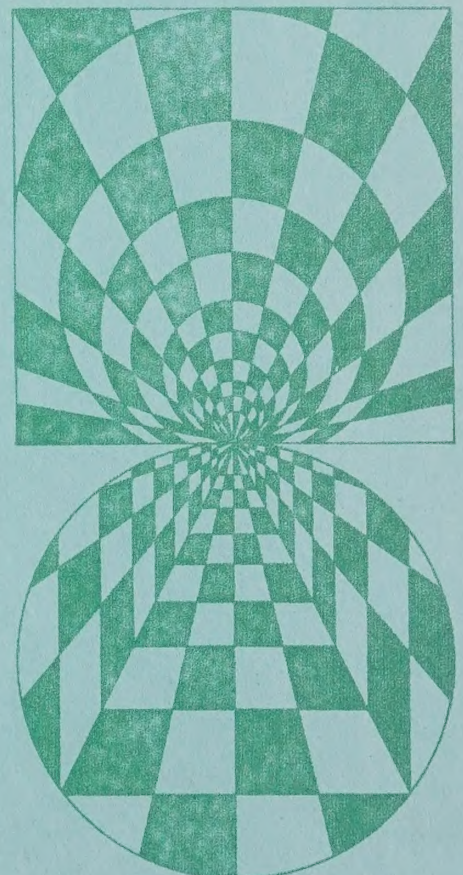
HINTS

Hints, hints, hints! Did you ever wonder why we are unfortunate enough to be plagued by hints? They always seem to tell us that we are wrong and that it is high time to straighten our act up. So it is true - remember how all prisons are plagued with cigarette butt ridden floors? Well, the Ole CPS threw us the big hint the other day by way of brand new little ashtrays for our cells. We wonder how many of us shall take the hint?

Last issue we related the latest of moves by the CPS, the issuing of ID tags to us convict types. Well, as of May 23 these tags have been recalled, and we have been issued with a larger type with simply our name on it (sans number).

The old tags supposedly will be for use on TLA, as a form of identification. I don't know how much was spent on the picture type tags, but they probably can be priced at over \$2.00 apiece, not to mention the cost of the expensive camera equipment, laminating equipment, etc.

We wonder what the next move in the continuing saga of law enforcement will be. Maybe they'll decide to tattoo us, or something.



Parole Board Now Answerable to Federal Court

Both the role and structure of the National Parole Board could change dramatically with the implementation of Bill C-51, Parole Board Chairman, William Outerbridge, disclosed this month in a discussion with *Liaison*.

Due Process Safeguards

Probably most significant from the inmate's point of view are the regulations providing for a number of "due process safeguards," many of which have been common practice, but are now legally binding.

For instance, "We've been conducting hearings for inmates at parole eligibility date for seven years," Mr. Outerbridge commented. "What we are now doing is writing into law what has been common practice."

The safeguards provide for reasons in writing for parole decisions, particularly important when parole is denied, and for an internal review if a man is turned down and feels there are substantial reasons why the decision was unjust. He can apply to the Chairman himself, who may refer the file to an Internal Review Committee of three Board members who had not previously voted on the case. Also, an inmate who has been suspended while on parole can now request a post-suspension hearing to explain why he should not be suspended.

Court Privy to Parole Board Information

One of the really substantial changes, according to Mr. Outerbridge, is that for the first time inmates will have access to the federal court. "If we haven't honored our commitments as laid down by regulation," he notes, "we can now be criticized by a federal court." Access will be limited to instances where it is alleged that the Board has not followed the procedures required. The court will not be able to overturn the decision itself.

Temporary Absences

Some of the other changes might be considered "housekeeping" resulting from the amalgamation of CPS and NPS. For instance, while escorted temporary absences will still remain under the jurisdiction of the warden of an institution, unescorted temporary absences will now be administered by the Parole Board, the rationale being that "... once you arrive at the decision that a man should begin gradual release, with time this usually evolves into a full release." Assigning the responsibility for unescorted TA's to the Parole Board removes the incongruity of "... one administrative body (CPS) allowing a series of short term absences which, in effect, would almost commit the Parole Board to continue on to parole a man whom they might otherwise not consider a suitable candidate."

Provincial Parole Boards

The decision to allow individual provinces to set up their own parole boards is, according to Mr. Outerbridge, a direct result of discussions at the 1973 Conference of Correctional Ministers. At that time "... the provinces felt there should be some consistency in the handling of inmates from the beginning to the end of their sentences and that if they were in provincial institutions, they should have the parole, as well as the programming responsibilities.

At present, the National Parole Board is responsible for paroling all inmates except those serving the indeterminate portion of a "split" sentence in B.C. and Ontario, and while such a move would seem logical, the Chairman feels it also has the "... potential for 11 or 12 different correctional systems all independent of one another. You could have five or six or even more parole authorities," he notes.

Since about 40 percent of the Board's workload is with provincial cases, if three or four provinces were to undertake their own paroling, as seems likely, the workload of Board members in Ottawa would be considerably reduced.

Violent Conduct Defined

Questioned as to why "violent conduct" has now been specially dealt with, Mr. Outerbridge said that the Peace and Security package contemplated increased protection for the public, including greater restrictions on those convicted of crimes of violence. Under the regulations to be made effective shortly, "violent conduct" will be defined, and those offenders who fall within the regulation will be required to serve one-half rather than the usual one-third of their sentence before being eligible for parole. This regulation, however, will not be retroactive.

Regional Committee Board Members

Another major thrust will be the setting up of regional panels composed of a cross section of people from the community. "The idea," says William Outerbridge, "is to try to get input from people who represent the attitudes of the community in terms of whether or not a man should be released." Some may be stiff-necked, others bleeding hearts, but the mix should be representative of a particular community's concerns.

These Board members, who will be asked to come in for a week or ten days every six months, will evaluate whether or not a dangerous offender could be released on unescorted day parole or parole, and in casting their vote will have all the power of regular Board members. Two such members will be represented on all Board panels which will consider unescorted temporary absences, day parole or full parole for offenders convicted of murder, or who are serving indeterminate sentences as dangerous offenders.

Mandatory Supervision

Mandatory supervision has long been a thorny issue, not in the least for the Chairman himself, who feels that it "... has been a millstone around my neck." By law, mandatory supervision is automatic after two-thirds of a man's sentence has been served for those who have earned full remission, and the Board has no control over whether or not an inmate is released. Yet, as the Chairman commented, "... so many of the things the press pick up have to do with people released on mandatory supervision."

Noting that the whole issue of mandatory supervision had been questioned by the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, *Liaison* asked if anything was being done to make the system more equitable. Since there is no longer any statutory remission, was it just for an inmate to lose all his earned remission time when he got in trouble on mandatory supervision?

"The only change under the new regulations," Mr. Outerbridge said, "is that while you continue to lose remission time if you 'screw up' on leave, the Parole Board now has the power to re-credit all or part of that remission time if it deems it wise. A man can also now earn what is called 'street time' where formerly he didn't earn any remission time out of the institution on parole."

The Chairman added that an intensive research project is now underway to establish the costs and benefits of the system. "When this is completed, we will be in a position to recommend whether or not mandatory supervision should be continued."

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PRISONERS' RIGHTS

Prison Building Boom: Big Business

Prisons are big business in Canada these days. A recent study by the Ontario Ombudsman's Office has called for the construction of a host of new provincial jails. The Federal Government, on the other hand, ever in the correctional forefront, has actually sought and obtained Treasury Board funding to build 23 new penitentiaries in Canada over the next seven years. Nine of these are already under way. A small army of architects in this country is kept on a respectable dole by the private consultancy fees commissioned by the federal and provincial governments for advice on what to do about prison construction in the future. Not surprisingly, the governments have been told that they need to build more prisons.

So, as unobtrusively as possible, the Federal Government will be putting up 3300 new prison beds in the next seven years, mostly in B.C., the Prairies, and the Atlantic region. So little public and media attention has been paid to this issue nationally, and in most instances regionally as well, that the budget brought down by the Federal government in Feb. surprised virtually everyone with their heavy planned expenditures for more penitentiary guards and R.C.M.P. over the next year. Moreover, since these "estimates" only cover one fiscal year at a time, neither the House nor the Canadian Public can readily get a look at how its tax dollars will be spent more than one year ahead at a time. The full extent and cost of the 23-institution construction program, therefore, is a mystery to all but a few senior officials in the Solicitor General's Ministry and in Treasury Board. By the time these new pens are fully underway, it will be too late to repair the damage or reverse the program.

But it doesn't take a financial genius to figure out that it's going to cost us a bundle. Back when the Solicitor General press releases on its new penitentiaries were still doing us the courtesy of making some mention of the price tag, the estimated cost of building one 200-bed institution had crawled up to \$20-Million. With construction costs in this country doubling every 5 years, we should be lucky to get skinned for under three-quarters of a billion dollars on the building of these penitentiaries alone.

Maintaining them is another story in itself. The Canadian Penitentiary Service (C.P.S.) currently has a budget of \$250 Million for maintaining the operation in its present 59 institutions. If you consider that the 23 new pens will represent about a one-third increase in the number of beds contained in those 59 institutions, the maintenance of the new beds should bring also a good one-third increase in C.P.S.'s operating budget as well as maintaining. To make matters worse, the federal penitentiary budget has doubled over the last 15 years; there is no reason to assume, with the present inflation rates being what they are, that it shouldn't do the same over the next 15 years. By the year 1993, therefore, the bill for the C.P.S. adds up as follows. For the cost of building the 23 new pens, 750 million; for the cost of running the new ones alone, about 80 million to start, which should hit 160 million by 1993. Over the next 15 years, therefore we will have spent over two BILLION dollars in building and maintaining these new institutions. By 1993, if the debt is paid off from the cost of the construction program, the annual budget of C.P.S. will be humming along, at a conservative estimate, at a bustling three-quarters of a Billion dollars annually.

And what justification has been given for this more than lavish generosity with the public's tax dollar? Mostly none at all, for the government has been keeping very quiet about its construction program generally. The rapid turnover in persons filling the top jobs of Solicitor General, and Commissioner of Penitentiaries has added to the lack of leadership and long-range planning in the Ministry in the past ten years. And the rest of the Dept. is silenced alternatively by ignorance, apathy, and fear of the constant reminders of the need for "security": the federal government euphemism for its practise of over-classifying its information so high that any document relating to expenditures, "man years", planned programs, or anything generally which might give the public a hint about what the government might be doing with the public purse or police policy has no chance to be made public. Civil servants who still cling to a vestige of social conscience are thus afraid to criticize the program, either to their fellow workers or their superiors.

continued next page....

by Henry Carruthers

Senior Ministry officials regard the program as out of control and out of their hands. The Minister himself is so busy avoiding Ministerial responsibility for the R.C.M.P. in the House every day that he has no time to devote to avoiding Ministerial responsibility for the construction program.

Still, there have been a few hints about the reasons behind the program. Back in early 1974, Warren Allmond, then Solicitor General, announced in a press release that unexpected growth in the number of persons coming into federal pens in the last year constituted a "population explosion" which was causing overcrowding, the moving of supposedly "maximum security" inmates into medium security, and serious problems of inmate discipline and violence. Based on this "trend" of one years growth, an "accelerated" construction program was announced to relieve immediate overcrowding problems. (The nine-institution "accelerated" construction program is the only one you read about in the papers these days, though it represents less than half of the total program.) Well, here it is four years later, only one of the announced pens has been completed and opened, and there is no sign of the 12 thousand inmates which the press release told us to expect by next year. In fact the current total federal penitentiary is only about 100 persons higher than the 9200 which the 1974 press release claimed were being held in the C.P.S. at the time.

In fact, by C.P.S.'s own current figures, there is no overcrowding at all in the federal pens right now. A gorgeous five-colour map of Canada, showing the locations of the present 59 institutions, which were printed by the C.P.S. last year, shows a total current bed-space of 11,700 beds. As it turns out,

this is 2400 beds more than we had federal inmates at the end of last year. More alarmingly, it is 300 beds more than C.P.S.'s own recent projections for its total penitentiary population for the year 1985. In other words, if we stop all current construction tomorrow, we will still be 300 beds ahead of the game by 1985.

So overcrowding is not the reason for the building boom. Thus we come to the next most popular justification for the program used by the Solicitor General, namely that it will respond to the violence we have been seeing lately in the maximum security monsters. C.P.S. doesn't like to push this reason too hard, though, because it might look a little foolish when it comes out that in fact it has no plans to tear down anywhere near the number of cells it plans to put up: this is most definitely not a replacement program. Only three of the old pens are due to go in the next seven years: Kingston Pen, the 140-year-old kingpin of the Service; Laval, the big troublemaker in the Quebec region; and, surprisingly, Dorchester, the Maritime maximum which is the quietest of all the ancient maximum security pens.

These plans leave standing B.C. Pen where the really spectacular hostage-takings occur, as well as the worst of the stabbings and other killings of inmates by one another; Millhaven, the scene of the worst strikes and riots, and the most popular spot for inmate suicides and other inmate deaths of a somewhat more mysterious origin; as well as Matsqui, Stony Mountain, Saskatchewan Penitentiary, Drumheller, Collins Bay, Joyceville, and the Prison for Women, all of which have seen more than their share of trouble and criticism in recent years as well.

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So the government can't even fall too heavily back on the usual humanist, reformist rationalizations it likes to use for the continuation of its present repressive policies and the introduction of new ones, such as those contained in the "Peace and Security" Bill last year--the great consolation-prize package the government tried to use to make the abolition of capital punishment more palatable to the Canadian public.

One reason the government does like to use for its policies is that it is now holding the "more dangerous and long term" inmates in its pens: this very language was used as recently as last month by the Commissioner of Penitentiaries in a letter to the Toronto Globe Mail. By its own figures, this argument by C.P.S. is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Persons sent to federal pens for killing, attempting to kill, wounding, or assaulting, including sexually assaulting, another person constitute less than a fifth of all admissions annually. Of those persons released from federal penitentiaries, only 5 to 10 percent commit such a crime after they get out. Most prisoners come into federal pens with a two - or three-year sentence for a property crime which involved not even a suggestion of violence.

At about this point in the argument the federal government is likely to throw up its hands and complain that it has no control over the numbers of persons in its institutions anyway; it just responds to the policies and practises of other decision-makers in the criminal justice system. There is of course some truth to this: people generally get sent to C.P.S. custody by provincial judges, not by federal officials. However, the pose of humanist helplessness which the Solicitor General seems therefore justified in assuming is far from accurate. For one thing, one of the principal factors which affects penitentiary populations most powerfully is the rate at which persons are released from the prisons on parole, rather than at the expiration of their maximum sentence. The federal parole rate has in fact dropped dramatically in recent years; it is now at just about its all-time low of 30 per cent. The Parole Board is running scared from its own bad press of the last 5 years, which made a lot of copy out of a few incidents of spectacular violence by parolees released by the Board. While still maintaining a public stance of supporting a maximum possible use of full and partial parole (temporary absences) from federal penitentiaries, the Board is in fact cutting its losses at every available turn, dropping its parole rate by over 30 per cent in the last eight years, clamping down on three day passes, and even voluntarily

eliminating its own former power to release an inmate before the expiration of one-third of his sentence.

The Chairman of the National Parole Board, William Outerbridge, was actually hired for his liberal views a scant five years ago. An article he wrote in the Canadian Journal of Criminology and Corrections in 1969, "The Tyranny of Treatment", was a major development in Canadian thinking on the subject of the repressiveness of over-zealous government attempts to intervene in offenders' lives "for their own good". Today, Outerbridge runs an enormous temporary and full-parole system, the largest in the world, which is known principally for its unwillingness to exercise its considerable powers to mitigate the severity of a sentence of imprisonment. The last vestiges of Outerbridge's liberal view of parole can be seen in the implementation of procedural safeguards sur-



rounding parole hearings, "safeguards" which ring entirely hollow and meaningless in the face of a current release policy whose stinginess is resistant to all the procedural regularities imaginable. The most intricate parole hearing in the world which comes up with a parole denial, is still a parole denial.

The quasi-judicial "independence" which the Board is so proud of has in effect isolated it from any of the desirable, as well as the undesirable, pressures inherent in the penitentiary system. So it is that you find the Board throwing up its hands in helplessness to affect the alleged "overcrowding" in CPS institutions, and C.P.S. throwing up its hands in helplessness to affect the rate

continued next page....

at which prisoners enter and leave the pens. And officials at the Solicitor General are careful not to over-emphasize that both agencies reside with the Ministry.

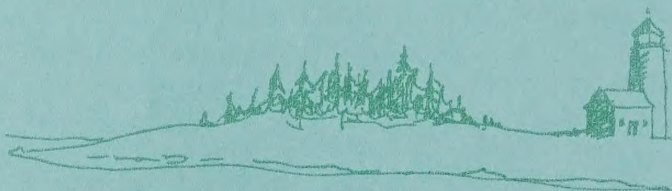
Past and present Ministry officials also seem fond of avowing their devotion to "diversion", as they like to call it: the practise of keeping offenders in the community and out of the criminal justice system. In the grossest of hypocrisies, Solicitors General seem most enamoured of dragging out the "diversion" myth like a stuffed elephant whenever they announce that they are about to build another penitentiary. This is the closest that they seem to be able to come in reminding the provinces that may be provincial court judges ought to quit throwing around sentences like so much correctional confetti. But the province are more than pleased with the present arrangement. The two-year rule, which provides that all persons, regardless of their crime, who are sentenced to two years or more, shall do their time in federal institutions, if it does not provide a direct incentive to provincial governments to see as many inmates as possible on the federal expenditure roll certainly does nothing to promote the use of probation, a provincial fiscal responsibility. The federal government, on the other hand, has done nothing to try to persuade the provinces that some more stringent guidelines are in order for sentencing judges. Sitting uncomfortably on the stack of reports by the federal Law Reform Commission which consistently and in most clear of terms have called for the use of imprisonment only as a "last resort" when all else has failed, the federal government continues to complain of how little is being done on the diversion problem, and ensures just that by building more prisons than we will need for along time to come.

What possible solutions are in order for the immediate and long-term future? First and foremost, the federal and provincial governments must call an immediate moratorium on all further prison construction. Far from building more institutions, it must actually set itself the goal of reducing its bed

space by, say, 10 per cent annually until it reaches an absolute rock-bottom of inmates who are in for such violent and despicable acts, or who present such a clear danger of lives of others that they cannot possibly be contained through any other means. Second, the federal and provincial governments must draw up and set into law guidelines for sentencing judges which do in fact render the Law Reform Commission's "last resort" position on incarceration a reality. Third, in the meanwhile, the federal government should tell the National Parole Board that it can expect to lose one "man-year", the bullion of the civil service for every year that the federal parole rate is under 60 per cent in future. Fourth, the federal government must find some way of offsetting the incentives on provincial judges and probation officials to send people to institutions for two-year sentences and up. The solution would seem to be more of their own fondest incentives: money. The federal government should pay the provinces for every serious offender they agree to handle on the street who would otherwise have been sent to federal penitentiary. The money the province get in return for this service must in turn come with the string attached that it must be used to develop community-based correctional alternatives for serious offenders, not to hold them in their own jails nor to take minor or "nuisance" offenders on probation, persons who should not be the concern of the criminal justice system in any case.

You the reader have a task to perform as well. Write to your federal and provincial members of Parliament; it is surely not time to despair entirely on this front yet. Write to your federal and provincial Solicitors General, too: you would be surprised at how much they hate seeing an irate public wondering what the hell is being done with its tax dollar.

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the family of each minute's
slow parade.

I tend the hour glass--
a ballet set to time's
strict serenade.
Within the hour glass
the golden sands
eroded from once stone
that once the seas did blast
now rest (eternally)
alone.

Progress

No longer bars
but wretched pains
of window smudged
with ancient grit
and paint splattered spiral cracks
spread in kaleidoscopic trails
across the glass.
A few feet beyond--
no longer bars--
the cold grey chain link
crowned by barbed wire
conspires to obscure the view
of maples aligned along the road
so close away.

Evening

Sh-h-h.
She's sleeping.
A faint rosy glow
lies on her body
in gentle curves.
Dreams,
like evening clouds in clusters,
and she smiles faintly
as if gazing on a sliver of silver.
Moon east
in a slumbering sky
of navy blue.

Morris A. McCorvey

Playground

Isolated by an iron fence traffic
flows around an island where Time
stays still for childish laughter.
For now the world seems shut away
as swings go up and swings come down
and the carousel goes 'round and 'round.

Soon the games are over. Children
leave but not by the same gate
they entered in. There is no way
they can retain the innocence
of lost playgrounds. Somehow
they know it. That is why
no child ever leaves but takes
a long last look behind where swings
fly up and swings come down
and the carousel goes 'round and 'round.

Three Captives

Newspapers show the prisoner
displayed fullface his name
replaced by a number. Beside him
unflinching guard held hostage
until they tossed in tear-gas.

There should be three men
in the picture but you will see
only two the prisoner and the guard
stern man who earns his pay
by daily work I do not want
to do. That's why one man is
missing. The third man is me.

We are three captives caught
by old customs locked behind
an iron inertia enduring
hired centurions to watch
by endless crosses.

by J.R. Brooks

PRISONERS - KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

PHIL WHYNOTT



This column is being published to advise prisoners as to what rights they have. While it is aimed primarily at prisoners in Springhill, it should hold true for any prisoner in any federal prison in Canada. The source for our material are the Commissioner's Directives, which originate in Ottawa. We hope to make this a continuing series with something new each issue. Copies of the directives are available in the prison library.

COMMISSIONER'S DIRECTIVE NO. 213 "GUIDELINES FOR INMATE DISCIPLINE"

The purpose of No. 213 is to ensure approved standards of behaviour and conduct, and to show what happens when they don't approve.

You're entitled to written information, within two weeks of coming here, on disciplinary requirements of the prison, including offences and punishments for said offences.

Some examples of offences as listed in Penitentiary Service Regulation No. 2.29 are:

- 1) disobeys or fails to obey a lawful order of a penitentiary officer
- 2) refuses to work
- 3) has contraband in his possession
- 4) assaults or threatens to assault another person
- 5) does any act that is calculated to prejudice the discipline or good order of the institution

These offences can be either called minor offences or serious offences. If you're found guilty of a serious offence punishment will consist of one or more of the following:

- 1) loss of Remission
- 2) up to thirty (30) days in the hole on a regular or restricted diet
- 3) loss of privileges

If you're found guilty of a minor offence, punishment shall consist of the loss of one or more privileges.

Any offences that contravene the Criminal Code of Canada will be dealt with in outside court. You may be kept in Dissociation pending court appearance.

When an institutional officer witnesses an offence he shall take one or

more of the following steps:

- 1) order the inmate to stop or use the necessary force, including firearms or other weapons to make him stop
- 2) warn, reprimand and counsel those involved
- 3) advise the senior security officer on duty if Dissociation is warranted
- 4) take note of the offence and place a written memorandum on inmate's file for future reference
- 5) write an offence report

HEARING OF CHARGES

The hearing of a prisoner under charge will start within three (3) working days from the date of the offence but may be adjourned from time to time.

No finding shall be made against a prisoner charged under 2.29 for a serious offence unless he:

- 1) has received written, detailed notice of the charge
- 2) has at least twenty-four (24) hours after receiving such notice to prepare his defence
- 3) has appeared personally at the hearing so that the evidence against him was given in his presence
- 4) has been given full opportunity to answer and defend the charge, including introducing documents and cross-examining the witnesses, which shall be done through the presiding officer (you can call, but will not necessarily get your own witnesses)
- 5) the decision as to guilt or innocence shall be based solely on the evidence produced at the hearing and if a conviction is to be registered it can only be on the basis that after a fair and impartial weighing of the evidence there is no reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the accused

DISSOCIATION

Dissociation of a prisoner shall be considered as a severe penalty and other less severe punishments shall be considered before it is imposed. Reasons for such dissociation will always be given to the prisoner as soon as action is

taken.

Clothing for prisoners in Dissociation shall conform to the style which prevails in the general prison population. Every prisoner placed in Dissociation shall be examined as soon as possible by the prison physician. You will be provided with a mattress, pillow and an adequate supply of bed clothing, which will be removed during non-sleeping hours. You will be given at least one-half hour of exercise in the open air in winter and one hour in the summer, on every day when weather and other conditions permit.

Every prisoner in Dissociation shall be visited:

- 1) at least once every twenty-four (24) hours either by the Director of the institution, the senior officer of the week or the officer in charge of the institution
- 2) at least once every hour by the of-

ficer on duty in that part of the institution

- 3) once a day by a hospital officer

There is much more information in these directives than is listed here. It is available in the library and should be read by every prisoner who is interested in his rights.

Remember -- as you have certain rights so has the Administration. Your rights have been won by a lot of hard work by other prisoners and people working on behalf of prisoners. If you don't insist on them when necessary, you are letting down other prisoners. The rules and rights are for our use, not abuse. There's a difference between scratching our ass and tearing it all to pieces; so use good judgement when fighting your case or asserting your rights.

* * * * *

The previous article is reprinted from Volume 5 - Issue Number 2 of the Communicator the year 1976. Phil Whynott is an ex-inmate of Springhill Medium Security Institution.

Gestetner

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HAVE YOU DONE ANY THINKING LATELY?

by Mike McCabe

Recently I had the opportunity to spend three days at a half-way house, located in Halifax, called the Carlton Centre. I was asked to visit the half-way house to observe and record the working of it first hand. I was also asked if I could write an article on what I had observed, to be printed in the next issue of the "Communicator". The reason is so that any prospective candidates or just anyone curious about the Carlton Centre would be able to get some information for possible future use.

Now that the reason for this article has been established, let me point out that I wasn't going to write it. The reason being that most people, I felt, would read just part of the article then decide that it was just another hype-job about some crummy half-way house. Well, I've changed my mind once again in hopes that any one who sincerely wishes to help himself will continue to read then make a decision as to what he thinks about it. Anyone not interested in himself can stop reading as of here. For those who venture on I'll continue the journey. My wish is to make this article understandable and also informative. A description of things such as eligibility, preparation, and expectations will be the first part. Then I'll offer my own personal opinions on what I observed.

First off, you must be an inmate in one of the penitentiaries scattered throughout Canada. Which isn't very hard to do seeing as Canada has one of the highest in carceration rates per family in the world. After you are an inmate then your Parole Eligibility date has to be established. Once you are eligible for day-parole you are also eligible for the Carlton Centre. Because you go there on a day-parole basis. To prepare to go to the Carlton Centre you should approach your Classification Officer and tell him of your intention. It would be a good idea to apply four to six months ahead as it takes that long to process the application. Now that eligibility and preparations have been discussed I'll explain a little about the Centre itself.

In my description of the Centre I will be using excerpts from an old guide book printed by the Centre. Some parts are obsolete and new ones haven't been added since. But the Centre is presently working on a new updated guide for future publication. To start off the Carlton Centre is a Community Correctional Centre operated by the Canadian Penitentiary Service. The aim of the Centre is to assist inmates from Federal Penitentiaries to adjust from life in the Penitentiary to life in the community. The Centre is prepared to work with people who have a sincere desire to make it on the street. When you go to the Carlton Centre you become what is known as a Resident. You are still, technically, an inmate at an institution. The institution being the Centre. "You are also on Day Parole and must abide by the restrictions of Day Parole: "Day Parole is a form of release which enables an inmate of a Federal Penitentiary to work or further his education and pursue leisure time activities in the community, provided he returns to the Institution at specified times". When you are at the Carlton Centre you have a Parole Officer with whom you discuss matters concerning your day-parole, full parole or mandatory release.

Generally, the aim of the Carlton Centre is to assist an inmate with the adjustment problems he will have returning to the community, helping him to become self-sufficient in the community. This is achieved thru several ways. The Centre is committed to providing:

- 1) Individual counselling
- 2) Financial support during the early stages of your return to the community
- 3) Referrals to specialized persons or agencies to assist with problem areas
- 4) An opportunity to work with a counsellor to define your own problems in returning to the community and seek solutions to them
- 5) A setting that we hope will foster meaningful and trusting relationships with other residents and with people in authority.

continued...

"We are committed to providing a humane environment for you to define and seek solutions to your problems. It is your responsibility to ensure you get as much benefit from your stay at the Centre as possible."

The staff of the Centre is composed of the Director - Bob Bentley, Senior Counsellor - Jack Stewart, five counsellors, a clerk, a night watchman and two people from F.L.I.P., Federal Labour Intensive Program. On your arrival you will have a meeting with the staff, who will explain the general operation of the Centre and its objectives. You will also meet with a Parole Officer who represents the National Parole Service at the Centre. This is one of the parts that should occur on a regular basis. Upon my arrival I was left to resort to my own resources for information on the first day. However my trip was of a different nature than someone who will be going down on what's called a pre-arrestment T.A., which will be discussed later in the article, or someone who has been accepted and arrives for his first day. My advice for that first day would be to request some type of meeting unless one has been planned already.

Getting back to making application there are several handy suggestions offered along with the criteria that goes into the selection of an applicant. While there are a number of group programs at Carlton Centre, our primary focus is the individual resident - his needs and wants. Because of this highly individualistic approach it is difficult to set down specific selection criteria which are rigidly and consistently applied to potential candidates. There are, however, certain questions which are consistently asked during the selection process. These questions cover four main areas of concern:

1) Need for Structured Release Program

In looking at the applicant's need for a gradual release we would ask:

- (a) Would the individual become frustrated with restrictions?
- (b) Would Carlton Centre be a hinderance or help to him in relation to his family?
- (c) Does he have enough going for him in the community in terms of family, job, that he does not need the resources available at the Centre?

2) Ability to Respond

We would have questions about the applicant's ability to benefit not only from the counselling relationship, but also from the group process:

- (a) How would the applicant get along with other residents?
- (b) How would the applicant respond to close supervision?

3) Risk Level to the Community

As a residence situated in a community, we must consider whether an applicant is likely to endanger other members of the community or threaten our ability to exist in the community:

- (a) What is the applicant's criminal record?
- (b) What is the applicant's ability to cope with stress?
- (c) What is the applicant's psychological and psychiatric profile?

continued...



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4) Our Ability to Meet Needs

In considering an applicant's needs, we must also make a realistic assessment of our ability to meet the needs presented:

- (a) Do we have a person on staff who has the skills appropriate to the needs presented?
- (b) Do we have access to community resources which could meet those needs?

There are questions of major concern which overlap the four main areas cited:

- 1) What does the Institution say about the applicant?
- 2) Is the applicant "criminally engrained"?
- 3) Does the applicant have a low frustration point?

The reason I included all of this info is because I think that it is important to know what a person is getting involved in before he makes a commitment. The next portion from the booklet should be taken with the "grain of salt". There are cases I have heard, about people who have applied for the Centre and been rejected without even having an interview. The reason I add this is to let the applicant know that he has to move his butt to make sure he is interviewed and been given the proper consideration. Each applicant is given careful consideration by the staff of the Centre and the Halifax office of the National Parole Service. "Our decision" is based upon information on your Parole Service file, recommendations of your Classification and Parole officers, interviews that our staff have with you in the Institution, and, in some cases, our observations from a three or more day temporary absence visit to the Centre. "The final decision is in the hands of the National Parole Board."

The Pre-acceptance visit is part of your Community Assessment for Day Parole to the Carlton Centre. The National Parole Service and Carlton Centre staff may request a Temporary Absence for you to come to the Centre for three days or a 30 day parole in special cases. The purpose of this pass is to provide both you and the Centre with information to help make a decision on your residency at the Centre. It also provides us with background to assist us to work with you in the development of a plan for your program at the Centre. On this pass you'll be able to distinguish the bull from the real stuff and for that the same thing about you. You will be on an informal timetable for that time so don't get high hopes of running rampant thru the streets of Halifax. The 3 Day T.A. thing will be changed somehow so that it doesn't affect your personal 72 hour pass. For more info ask your classification officer. During your three day stay at the Centre, you will be assigned a Counsellor who will work closely with you. If you do not know the city, a resident will be asked to assist you during your stay.

The Centre recognizes that this assessment period can be a difficult time for you. A simple rule to follow that we have found to be advantage to all is: BE YOURSELF!!!

Your first two weeks at the Centre will be Orientation. Your curfew will be 10:00 p.m., and you will be working very closely with the staff. Your time during this period will be quite structured. During this time, it is hoped that you will get to know the Centre and the Centre staff will get to know you. They will introduce you to the resources in the community and at the Centre that may be of assistance to you. The Centre expects that at the end of this period you would have a fairly clear idea of what you want to do with your time at the Centre.

At the end of this period, staff at the Centre and National Parole Service will review your case and decide if orientation should end. If your progress is not considered to be adequate, then you will continue in the orientation program. This will be reviewed each week.

Once you have made it to the Centre you will find that it is much like living in any home setting. You will be living in a home with up to fourteen other men, and sharing rooms and the tasks of cleaning and maintaining the Centre in good repair.

continued.....

The Centre provides support Monday to Thursday inclusive, and breakfasts Monday to Friday inclusive. The cost is \$11.00 per week, this includes rent, and all residents are required to participate in this program while they are residents of the Centre. Everyone is required to assist in the cooking, shopping and clean-up for the meals on a rotation basis.

MONEY - From the time you are transferred to the Centre until you receive your first pay cheque, you will be given a money allowance of up to \$7.00 per day for meals and personal effects.

Once you receive your first pay cheque, you are expected to provide for yourself. You will be required to pay rent for your room at the rate of \$11.00 per week. Rent commences from the day you receive your first pay cheque.

PASSES - Daily and weekend passes are the two types of passes at the Centre.

Daily passes are issued from as early as 6:00 a.m. until midnight, to permit you to work, go to school or take part in leisure time activities. You are required to sign out, leaving an address and phone number where you can be reached. Signing out and signing in must be done in the presence of a Counsellor. Once you are finished orientation, you will ordinarily sign out for the day to go to work, return at supper hour and sign out for the evening. Curfew during the week is as late as midnight and on the weekend, 1:00 a.m..

You are eligible for one weekend pass in your first two months at the Centre. This may be taken after three weeks stay at the Centre. After two full months at the Centre, you are eligible for two weekend passes a month; after three full months three passes, etc. These passes are granted on the basis of your progress.

It is important to remember that all passes are privileges and not rights.

Graphic Representation of Weekend Pass Program

	Eligible for 1 Weekend Pass	Eligible for 2 Weekend Passes	Eligible for 3 Weekend Passes	Eligible for 4 Weekend Passes
Date of Arrival at Centre	3 Weeks	2 Months	3 Months	4 Months

When I talked to the Director, Bob Bentley, he made it clear to me that they do not feel that this place should be viewed as paradise. Once you commit yourself to staying there you have to live up to the expectations of the Centre. He mentioned that drugs are not tolerated in the house and that searches of the house are conducted when the need arises. You are expected to conduct yourself as best as you can using your common sense. Problems that arise are dealt with in several ways. The house meeting, which is compulsory for residents, is one way the problems of the house are dealt with. The confrontation allows problems to be discussed openly by all sides and hopefully resolved. Another way is thru the weekly meeting of the Residence Committee. This Committee is composed of three residents and is there to discuss with the staff the problems that arise in the house. There are also various means of punishment such as restricting leisure time, grounding or loss of passes, and in certain extreme or repeat cases, revocation of day-parole. But let me point out that the resident is given every chance possible to resolve his problems before he is sent back to the joint.

Except for the various small things that I have left out, that is what the Carlton Centre is all about. As in every descriptive article the writer can't include or even attempt to include everything involved with the subject. But I hope that I included enough information to dispell any misconceptions or misunderstandings about the Centre. As can be expected in any government institution you can't expect that things will run flawlessly and the Carlton Centre is no exception. I feel, though, that it is working better than we expectatious had hoped and that it does provide a very necessary service for inmates making the transfer from joint to street. Most importantly is the motivation behind an individual that either makes or breaks him. With the right motivation, whatever that may be, and a place such as this the opportunity is provided all a person has to do is reach out and take it.

How can I be sure of who
I am, knowing where I am going,
Being sure of what I do

Things aren't what I thought
they'd be, but I do know
their there.

Behind me are things I've
done, ahead of me are things
I want to do.

But how can I be sure
of them

"Why is something blocking my view?"
"Am I blind?"

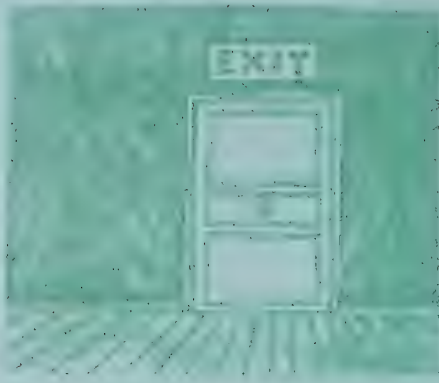
"Is there something really there?"
"I can feel it!"
"I can sense it!"
"What is it?"

"Me" it's only myself!"

by Chuckie Alchorn

"THIS IS NOT PRIMARILY THE PLACE WHERE WE HAVE TO BE,
IT IS NOT THE PLACE WE ARE,
THIS IS NOT OUR PRISON,
BUT OUR HOME,
IT IS THE ROAD WE MUST WALK
AND THE WALKING IS CALLED LIFE.
BECAUSE WE WILL WALK IT ONLY ONCE
THEN HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE SHOULD
WALK IT WITH SOME PURPOSE
THAT WE CAN CALL OUR OWN!"

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



DRIFTING

FREE

A new day has dawned,
the dew look how lightly its falling;
Walking lazily along a fresh green meadow softly calling;
I love the bright orange sun,
as it slowly rises over the hill;
I am lost in my joy of freedom as I wish I always somehow will;

The peace I feel inside,
makes me feel weak with its power;
My ego rests so peacefully on top of the highest tower;
The ever fresh smell of pine trees,
make a man feel new;
This is I realize a dream,
as the melody of the birds bring to me;

by Darrel Forsyth



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Our Twenty Seventh Year

IN MY OPINION

by Shake Verner

REFORM - to change and make better - much needed in today's truculent system. The entire nations of our world are in constant state of reformation. We reform our politics, our penitentiaries, our schools and our homelife. Still we have faults and problems. Faults are habitual to our nature and are most likely a common deterrent in mankind's progress, but problems are something that man has always tried to cure, something that he will abolish. Yet, Canada's problem is over a hundred years old and we have yet to come to terms with it.

Gandhi once said: "We must widen the prison gates, and we must enter them as a bridegroom enters the bride's chamber. Freedom is to be wooed only inside prison walls and sometimes on gallows, never in the council chambers, courts, or the school room."

The Dominion Of Canada took great heed to her word and entered our prisons with an entire different point of view, a bias one. They entered as a bridegroom - lost - knowing only what others had told them of prisons, convicts and managerial staff. The Parliament's Subcommittee overlooked three main items in their recommendations: 1) Many of the recommendations are technically in effect at the present time, but are not, in fact, being implemented: 2) They attempt to justify imprisonment and the prison system, but they mention nothing concerning prevention or rehabilitation: 3) The report centres on the present system but mentions nil on alternatives. There has been much debate and discussion over the sub-committee and many of us are ill from trying to activate the proper motivation needed in order to have such a committee set up without a time limit and with the necessary rights to enter our penitentiaries and our courtrooms and reconstruct, change and update the system.

PRISON VIOLENCE - riots, hostage takings, work strikes and hunger strikes - This has long been the blame for a failing system. No one takes into consideration that most of these instances are organized by inmates who have a long history of revolutionary actions or by prisoners who are very involved with today's system and possess a miasmatic influence upon the general population of a prison. Such men as Phillip Berrigan for example.

What we are overlooking is that over the past ten years prison violence has peaked and this alone should be fair proof that if our incarcerated citizens go through such risk taking and dangerous acts to attract the public's attention in order so their needs, demands and grievances can be heard, then they must be saying something that is worth hearing. Who would know better what was wrong with our system than those of us who are forced to live within it?

The government must soon begin to look and listen to inmates with an unbiased and unlackadaisical attitude. They have to reach the decision that not all our inmates are untrustworthy violent men who deserve no better. There are many within our barbed walls who are or should I say were outstanding business men, women and citizens. We have doctors, lawyers and professional people behind our bars who before being incarcerated were nonviolent and peaceful human beings, but during their imprisonment they became so mentally frustrated that they also became hostile. Many have left our prisons with the attitude that they are just an ex-con who will be shunned by respectable people and harassed by police until they no longer can refrain from breaking another law.

In my previous statement I placed the blame on, once again, our penal management. This is not to be believed as the only instigator in the woodwork of society - our inmates, themselves, carry far more blame than the Canadian Penitentiary Service. Many inmates are the proud owners of such a diminutive attitude that they convince themselves that society is against them, that drug laws are only there to aggravate them, and that a person of a different race, creed or colour is to be treated in a bigotted, prejudistic manner.

Unfortunately, insufficient processing is done on an individual upon entering jail. More careful evaluation should be done to determine and to recognize individual qualifications, hidden talents, needs, etc., once these are found arrangements should be made to encourage the individual to "work on it" using useful forms of incentives. Thus the result would seemingly be the disappearance of the punkish in-

mate and the appearance of sophisticated inmates in our society. Our present recidivism rate is somewhere about fifty percent, with the implication of such measures as this you could expect the rate to drop way below the present average.

Modern prison population age is far younger than that of the 1930's or the 1950's for that matter. Why is this so? Many blame drug abuse and alcoholism, others blame poor upbringing and homelife, but what we must soon begin to realize is that social problems such as these also have a cause. Why has the youth of today turned to drugs and alcohol? Certainly the answer is within the perimeter of society's network. Our system must be lacking some important item or containing some deterrent that has been jeopardizing our culture.

I had previously used the term 'sophisticated inmate'. I meant not to mislead you into conceiving the image of a convict dressed in silk and English tweeds with a personal butler and private guard. By sophisticated I state a far better educated, non-violent man who stands little chance of earning his yearly wage by the commitment of criminal activities. A man who will not be in and out through prison gates for years on end. Present Canadian penitentiaries should install revolving doors so as to stop the wear and tear upon the gatekeepers arm.

REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL CODE - the bible of the courts - Our criminal code is in exorbitant need of a reformation. Within its binders are petite laws that are worded in such a way as to enable the deceivment of the people by such Crown corporations as the RCMP. Recent disrobement of the federal police force proved that their undergarments were not one of the cleanest in the world.

The Code contains numerous 'lost laws' which are of a such half-witted nature that if they were ever to be enforced the number of our penal institutions would double yearly. These laws are the left-overs of Old Britian Law, (that of which the Code is based), and which have to be despersed from its chapters, no matter what the cost. These lost laws have been mentioned in governmental debates, but were quickly dismissed as a 'cost and time consuming innecessity'. What worse price must one pay then the failure of a system?

continued.....

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This economy and time problem could easily be solved if the whole of the Code were to be updated and revised as a whole, instead of attempting to abolish the lost laws one at a time. You could also put such a task to material assistance by inventing a division of law students to sit and tear down, revise, rebuild and update our criminal code while at the same time by doing so they would take us from beneath Mother England's style of law and develop a 'Canadian Style' law. By using law students you would also be training them, by practice use, to learn the entire book as they tore it down and built it back up. This is just one way of curing the problem, there are many others I am sure. The main thing though, is to work on the book as a whole and not by each singular law.

REFORMATION OF SENTENCING - proper sentence for proper crime - Sentencing is in need of reform also. Prison terms for such acts against property as vandalism, willful damage, or joy-riding should not call for a jail term but for restitution and fines, for in this money rapacious society nothing could hurt more than parting with our riches.

The government is beginning to realize that sentencing need be reformed, as is proven by the newly instated gun control laws and parole reforms. Violence is a crime we all agree should bring a jail term. Violence is the worst of crimes next only to sexual molestation. No one argues that a psychotic killer or a child molester should be free to walk our streets while a man may be serving a large term for such acts as break and enter.

Severe property crimes, violence, weapon related crimes and sexual molestation must call for maximum jail terms in comparison to such crimes as those of property trespasses, petty theft, mild drug possessions, antics and highway offences of a minor nature. It is not deemed necessary to incarcerate a first offender for a crime such as petty theft. Eastern Canadian Provincial Court Judges have a reputation for handing down large prison terms as examples 'for future offenders'. They have been noted for their ability to give these sentences to young teenagers, who often have had no previous criminal record. This type of sentencing should be outlawed and forbidden. The sentence should be decided upon the attitude, behaviour and seriousness of the accused and the extent of the involved crime.

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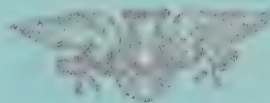
"What if we get this thing designed and built and then they just use it as a bargaining chip?"

A paragon such as this will bring about proper reform. Our system and our society will never be perfect, it is only man who actually believes he is the superior race, but with this paragon we can have a working system. We possess a working system now, but it is a failing one, self-rejecting and decadent. Our present system needs reform, but for some unexplained reason society cannot reach a general agreement.

CANADA'S IMITATION SYSTEM - our country's imitation of England's law, rehabilitation and parliamentary systems - laughter Canada has copied Mother England's ideas for so long that we no longer realize we are doing so. Our law system is the latter's example. Over the heads of our judges hangs the portrait of the Queen, nowhere in the courtroom, or courthouse for that matter, is there hanging a portrait of our leader, the Prime Minister. Caricastically we sing "O Canada" or "O Canada", but has this country ever sang to praise its leader? In superior court it is not the ministry versus the accused, but the Crown versus the accused. Parliamentary proceedings are carried out quasi-identical to Mother England's. We are Canada - strong and free almost. We are still held systematically to English systems, prisoners of our birthplace. Although we are a country of our own, our system is that of Mother England's.

How does this effect our penal and law systems? Severely. By using the British parliamentary procedure it takes longer periods of time to have an act or bill passed through the House, thus by the time it is returned to the people it is in need of reformation. This also serves as a deterrent in the Appellant Courts. Long waiting periods between cases cause taxpayers money, cause the accused mental anguish - disparement lays on the lap of our ties with England. Canada must devise its style of parliamentary and courtroom procedure.

In conclusion let me say that often we will find that realistic ideals may become dung in our faces while the seemingly unrealistic ones become icing on our cake. You may say that I am being unrealistic in my views, but I assure you that a system can be changed, but only when those who are forced to live within it are willing to do so. I am not an expert on these topics, but I am a victim of a failing system, a system that will eventually collapse, maybe not for a hundred years, but eventually it will and then the crisis will really be given birth. And I ask of you, "WHAT THEN?"



The author, Shake Verner, has since departed for points west. He goes there for his condition, having swallowed a thesaurus while writing the preceding article. EE.

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The youth across the way
is demolishing his cell
No longer could he see why
they had kept him here
A federal prison for a county sentence
Why?

They gave him nothing
They offered even less
No three day pass
No chance for a parole
"I'll have my pass!" he cries.

Now five guards arrive
riot shields and all
four large and one petite
for a youth of sixteen

"Hit me, hit me!" encourages the petite
(the others laugh)
The inmates all know him
They know his game

Saint Peter's Dance

Gypsy-fire eyed woman
feminine lust odours escape your womb
you dance, debauched
I come forth, like an ophidian
your eyes, hypnotic
I fall to my knees, I capitulate
to my face you press
your unvieled vagina
you moan, liquid fire pours upon my face
I am a slave,
for your command
my tongue goes forth
deep into you
you moan

Saint Peter's Dance Once Over

Acrid smell of well-oiled timber burning
in the feiry tomb of the furnace of Hell
as a child walks the corridors of santanic
empires wrought of stone tempered by
the vigilante spirits of Saint Peter
as he and they were but one in limbo
with the majestic power of a blackened universe.

and I was but a man among their own.

by SHAKIE VERNER

SHAKE'S

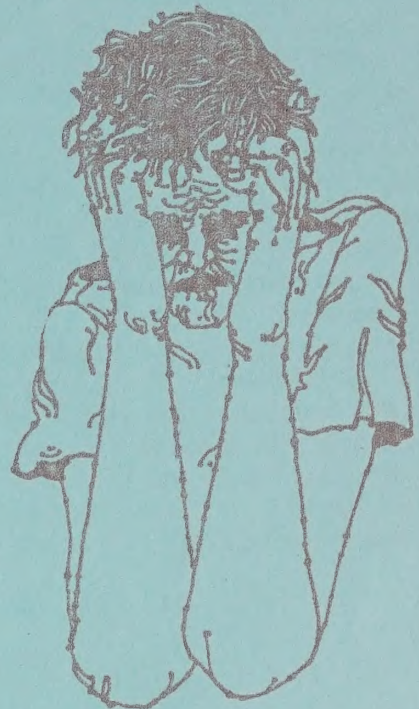
Strange Encounters of the 8th Kind

Strange things happen in the dark corners of the alleyways in Unit Eight, scary things like collapsing walls and missing bricks. Take for instance the time not too long ago that the wall of a cleaning / storage room disappeared down on B Range. What are these strange kind of forces that can remove walls and apply terrifying heat waves?

The yellowness of the walls remaining has disappeared also. Finally, the unit was painted, the yellow to green, five ranges blue and one range green, all are various shades. It is truly amazing how a simple paint job can change the whole atmosphere from depressing to normal. On the majority I would say that the new paint job is very much appreciated by the Brothers-of-Eight.

Cleanliness is the latest big issue of the various range meetings and talks. On the majority of the ranges you could pretty well eat from the floor as they shine like newly purchased crystal. I wonder if this has anything to do with the expected visit from the Commissioner of Penitentiaries?

There was a brief instance that we thought may have brought us into an unbearable heat wave, but all praise to the great Ja as thankfully it didn't. It began with the missing of a wall and climaxed with the knifing of one of our Brothers. The victim is still in the hospital and is doing very well considering. The culprit, on the other side - of - the - fence, however, is serving a time in administrative segregation.



As we all know, spring fever has once again struck the criminal society and thus our institution has filled up. Unit Eight has a full house with the unit count standing at 102. It seems as though the beds do not even have time to cool as the change over is instantaneous. Just to mention a few who have left us, there was The Wiz of E Range, Killer K from B, and The Terror of F Range.

Our unit canteen had its ups and downs during the last few months, but it seems to have become stable once again. Many inmates have remarked on its new look and cleanliness.

All in all, the Ole Eight Ball has gone through another Heavy Metamorphosis and one for the better as far as we can tell, but we will have to let Old Man Time tell us for sure. Until next time, Slama Sidhi Barakhas!



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I would strongly recommend this Precision Woodworking Course for anyone, and especially for those with loose ends and looking for a direction that is relatively free and open.

by: Dwayne Shaw

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